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25X1

SECRET

MORNING BRIEFING
SOVA/CS/E/ 25X1
25X1
25 March 1982

USSR-West Germany: Reduction of Natural Gas Imports

25X1

Under the terms of the contract signed last year, West German firms have agreed to purchase 10.5 billion cubic meters of gas per year from the USSR. This total is to be distributed as follows:

Ruhrgas	5.55
BEB	2.60
Thyssen Gas	1.25
Gelsenberg	1.10
	10.50

The above companies may reduce the contract volumes by 10 percent by 1 April 1982 and may exercise another 10 percent reduction by 1 October 1982. 25X1

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two, and probably three, of the four firms will reduce their purchases by 10 percent in April 25X1
no indication they will take another 10 percent reduction in October. BEB and Gelsenberg have reportedly notified Ruhrgas, their negotiating agent, of their intention to reduce their volumes by 10 percent on 1 April. Thyssen Gas has not yet come to a decision but probably will not exercise its option to seek a reduction by April. Ruhrgas also has not decided on a course of action, but 25X1
sources believe that it will opt for the April reduction. 25X1

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West German firms have decided whether to exercise the second option for a 10 percent cut in contracted purchases. [redacted] 25X1

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